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## OFFICES OF THE GOVERNORS

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January 29, 2009

The President  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

In your message to the Governors' Global Climate Summit in November, you spoke of a new chapter in America's leadership on climate change. You stated that "delay is no longer an option" and "denial is not an acceptable response." You offered that "any governor willing to promote clean energy will have a partner in the White House." As governors of states that have been proactive on climate change and clean energy issues, we welcome the opportunity to take you up on that offer. We ask to meet with you and your energy and environment leadership team as soon as possible to forge a new, dynamic partnership of state, local and federal leaders that will be critical to addressing climate change and leading our country toward a clean energy economy.

It is crucial that we build on our states' momentum. In the absence of federal leadership, we led the way in building an American climate change and clean energy policy from the ground up. Working with local communities and private businesses, we've pursued policies that focus on green jobs, renewable energy, alternative fuels and energy efficiency to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to global climate change.

We believe a successful national program will build on the work our states have done so far and will follow the same principles that guided our efforts. Specifically, it should:

- Set ambitious goals to achieve national emission reductions to avoid dangerous interference with the climate system.
- Couple market mechanisms, such as an economy-wide cap-and-trade program, with flexible performance standards and incentives for developing and deploying clean, efficient, low-emission technologies.

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- Use the value inherent in emissions allowances to accelerate the transition to a clean energy economy and take advantage of the states' expertise in energy efficiency, renewable energy deployment, green job creation and assistance to municipalities and less advantaged, vulnerable populations so that all citizens can reap the benefits of a sustainable clean energy future.
- Preserve and enhance state and local authority to continue implementing innovative measures and programs that further reduce greenhouse gas emissions within their jurisdictions.
- Recognize the value of private investments made under existing state and regional cap-and-trade programs and ensure that state clean energy programs funded by the auction of allowances issued under those programs are preserved.

We applaud your call to enact a strong and effective federal climate and clean energy policy, and we are committed to helping develop a policy that harnesses the experience, efficiency and creativity of programs at the local, state and regional levels. To this end, we write to request a meeting with you and your energy and environment cabinet and staff to develop a partnership that uses the positive momentum of our states' climate leadership to build a truly comprehensive American energy and climate strategy for the new century. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger  
California



Governor M. Jodi Rell  
Connecticut



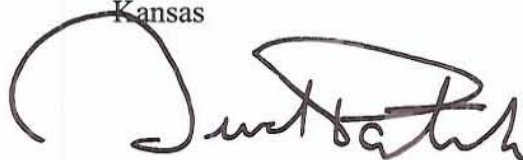
Governor Charlie Crist  
Florida



Governor Kathleen Sebelius  
Kansas



Governor Martin O'Malley  
Maryland



Governor Deval Patrick  
Massachusetts

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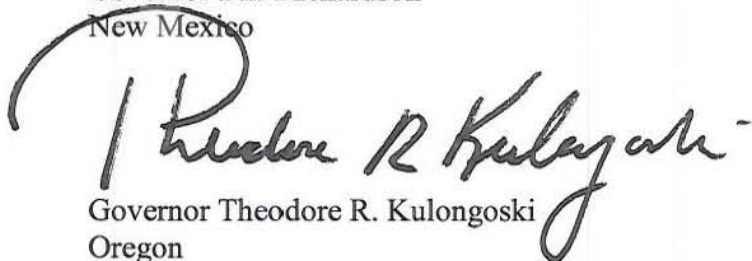
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Governor Bill Richardson  
New Mexico



Governor David Paterson  
New York



Governor Theodore R. Kulongoski  
Oregon



Governor Christine G. Gregoire  
Washington



Governor Jim Doyle  
Wisconsin

cc: The Honorable Ken Salazar, Secretary of the Interior  
The Honorable Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture  
The Honorable Stephen Chu, Secretary of Energy  
The Honorable Nancy Sutley, Chairwoman of the Council on Environmental Quality  
The Honorable Lisa Jackson, United States Environmental Protection Agency Administrator  
The Honorable Carol Browner, Assistant to the President for Energy and Climate Change